



Dumped in Oz

Andrew Grey

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Tales from Kansas

Because of an opportunity he'd be a fool to turn down, Lyle Powers transfers to his company's warehouse in central Kansas. The last thing he expects is to meet another gay man in the small town, let alone one who captures his interest.

Roger Kypers is a recovering alcoholic with a twelve-year-old daughter he only gets to see for part of the summer. Neither Lyle nor Roger is looking for a relationship, and they fumble at the start, yet emotions build as Roger shows Lyle the landmarks of Oz.

But when Roger's wicked witch of an ex-wife threatens to take his daughter away for good if he doesn't act "normally," he's faced with the challenge of letting her get away with it, or fighting to accept himself and standing up for what he knows is right.

Dumped in Oz Details

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From Reader Review Dumped in Oz for online ebook

Aine Massie says

Lyle lives in Harrisburg, PA, or rather, he exists there. Since his last relationship imploded, Lyle does little more than work, eat take out and sleep in preparation for the next day... where he does it all again. That is, until his boss offers him a position at their facility in Kansas.

Roger lives in Oz, trying to take care of his daughter and run his little restaurant. His life isn't as simple as one would think though. His ex makes the Wicked Witch of the West seem tame and he's a recovering alcoholic. His friends in town are on his side, even running intervention on him if he starts to slip. But when these two men meet, both their lives are turned upside down.

Watching as Lyle learns to stand up for himself and those he cares about is a true Andrew Grey special. Witnessing Roger learn to step outside the closet and fight for his daughter and himself is wonderful. The conflicts in the story are so real I personally know people who've lived through similar, and come out on top, just as our beloved couple here will.

This is a sweet novella and follows you even after you're done reading. The characters resonate as true and powerful, and I simply love Roger's daughter! Whether it's a psycho ex, fear, or learning to love together, these two men fight thought it to find their HEA. If you love sweet yet hot romance between two men wishing for things neither believes they can ever have, then this is a must read! I've already reread it once, lol, and know I will again and again. Thank you for sharing such a wonderful story with us, Andrew Grey.

*eARC provided by author in exchange for an honest review.

F. says

Easy, quick read. Liked Lizzie, the thirteen going on twenty-three year old daughter.
3.5 stars

Wax says

It was ok. I never really connected with either MC, so it was a rather bland read for me.

Maria says

2.5 stars

I was hesitant to pick this one up. I liked the description well enough. Lyle Powers, a young men stuck in a rut after his last break-up, has the opportunity to be more and start over when he's send to Kansas by his boss. Reluctant and pessimistic as he might be in the beginning, his new life starts to grow on him. Especially after he starts seeing more of Roger, a recovering alcoholic desperately trying to walk the straight

and narrow - literally - in order to be able to see his daughter on a more or less regular basis.

These two are not exactly easy characters and I was looking forward to reading about their development. But. And this is a pretty big but: I was disappointed after finishing the story. I've read *The Wizard of Oz*, so it was nice to understand the little allusions here and there. On the other hand the whole theme seemed to be pulled off half-heartedly. You either do it constantly and throw in references in all kinds of situations - which was what I expected because of the title and all; or you only use it as some kind of frame. In this story it felt like it was somewhere in the middle of that. There was something there, but it was too much for the one, and not enough for the other.

Another problem for me was the writing. I knew beforehand that Andrew Grey isn't exactly and 100% my kind of author. But I had this book on my TBR-pile for a while now, and I wanted to use it for my "Around the country"-Challenge. In the end though, I had to admit defeat. Even though I was interested in the story to a degree, it just didn't grab me. The dialogues didn't really flow, felt rather stilted at times. In general, the writing didn't feel natural to me. Some phrases made me cringe, because I was always thinking that nobody would talk like that, or say things like that while keeping a straight face. Some of the "emotional revelations" and inner musings felt absolutely out of sync. In some books even that kind of writing can work for me, but here it just never clicked. Also, the villains were way too one-dimensional for my taste. No layers, no explanations for their "over-villain-ness", everything black and white. A reference to the Wizard? I don't think so. All in all, the whole book felt too flat, too "simple" and too unnatural in writing and pacing for me to really enjoy it.

Arch Bala says

I'm not exactly sure how to go about with this review – This was my first book by Andrew Grey and I was maybe expecting a bit too much from this that's why I end up disappointing myself. The book wasn't so bad - I thought the MCs - Roger and Lyle had great chemistry but the story as a whole didn't do anything for me. It lacks development and each character is rather forgettable. Halfway through it, I was hoping that there'll be some sort of drama aside from Roger's ex-wife but it seems like all the characters went to boringtown until the end of the book. It's a good thing that it's not that long because for its thinly veiled plot, it's a wonder that it went over a hundred pages. 'Not very sure about this series but I'd probably read more Andrew Grey stories in the future because I've read so many positive reviews from his other books.

Rating: 2 out of 5 stars

A Girl Has No Name says

3 stars!

Lyle Powers has been stuck in a rut for way too long and when he suddenly gets the possibility to be transferred to Kansas by his company, he is first a **little reluctant to accept**. However, his two best friends are encouraging him to take the step. In an idyllic village in the middle of nowhere, Lyle is supposed to overcome his sorrows and to start anew.

While trying to get into touch with the inhabitants of the small village, he meets **Roger, who is a recovering alcohol**. While fighting his addiction, Roger furthermore has to face his witch of an ex-wife, who is trying to

making his life hell. Desperately wanting to see his daughter on a regular basis, he is willing to hide his own sexuality.

The plot sounded actually quite interesting. Unfortunately, the **ex-wife trope** won too much in importance and I couldn't really enjoy the relationship development. I liked the little allusions to the *Wizard of Oz* and I think that it could have worked out even better if it would have been a more constant thing. The side characters were all a little flat and the problems the couple faced might have been solved too easily sometimes, while being too dramatic in others.

I might give this series a second chance considering that *Dumped in Oz* was a quite enjoyable read with just a few weaknesses.

Penumbra says

[

Lyle's job requires him to transfer to the Shoebox distribution center in Kansas for a year. While in Wamego, Kansas, he meets Roger Kypers, a chef who owns his own restaurant. He's divorced, has partial custody of his daughter and is keeping a tight grip on his emotions and life. He doesn't allow himself any

Heller says

Full disclosure here, I've never actually seen the *Wizard of Oz* in its entirety. I'm familiar enough with it from the clips I've seen to understand the references but I don't really get the appeal. Just saying.

I've read a few Grey books now and for me it really depends on the story line and the characters. If I enjoy them I'll enjoy the book. I just find the cadence of the dialogue in his books can be really stilted and doesn't flow naturally so it tends to kick me out of the read in places.

This was a pleasant book. Nice guys finding love in sweet, small Kansas town. The villains were a bit over the top which added to the unreal aura but I liked it enough that I'll check out the others in the series.

V says

Lovely story, if you like this author writing and his books, you won't be disappointed with this. Mind you, when I read this title "Dumped in Oz", I thought this means Dumped in Australia ;)

Karen says

We're off to see the wizard...the wonderful wizard of Oz?

'Dumped In Oz' is the first book in Andrew Grey's series 'Tales From Kansas' and I liked the story well enough, but nothing about it really put me over the moon.

When Lyle Powers is given the opportunity to transfer to his employers warehouse in central Kansas...he's not thrilled about it, but as his friends point out to him it may just be the change he needs to get himself out of the rut he's let his life slide into and it's only for a year. After giving it some consideration Lyle realizes that while he's not thrilled to be leaving his home, this just might be his opportunity he needs to give both his personal and professional life a re-boot.

When Lyle arrives in small town, somewhere Kansas in spite of his reservations he's surprised to find how much he likes what he sees and while he's resigned to his fate, he's also determined that he's going to make the most of his year in 'Oz'. He's determined to do his best at work and to get out there and meet people, maybe even make a few friends rather than hiding at home with his television.

It's on one of his trips out to meet people that Lyle meets Roger Kypers. Roger's a local, he's lived in this town all his life, he's also an alcoholic who's fighting hard to stay sober for the sake of his teenage daughter and the restaurant that he's poured his heart and soul into getting off the ground all this from the closet he's hiding in the one that possibly connects Oz to Narnia.

At the heart of this story is a sweet tale of friendship and love. While Lyle and Roger share a mutual attraction I was also left with a very strong feeling of friendship between these two as Lyle tried to be Roger's friend and help him navigate his fears over coming out and living life as a gay man. It's not so much living life as a gay man that Roger fears, but what he might lose if he does. Roger knows that his ex-wife...(let's just think 'wicked witch of the west' here), is determined to keep their daughter from him, if he doesn't 'act normally' (insert stay in his closet here).

It's not only the love and support of his awesome daughter and his newfound friend and lover Lyle but a band of strong and supportive munchkins (think community here) that Roger soon begins to realize that maybe...just maybe, his life can be more than just his restaurant and the occasional visit with his daughter...maybe, he can have a family...a real family that he loves and that loves him back.

As Roger finally begins to feel like life is on track where his daughter is concerned, he also realizes that there's still one unanswered question that keeps his happiness hanging in the balance...'can he be enough to keep Lyle traveling down the yellow brick road with him?'

I really liked the premise of this story and I like Roger and Lyle. Lyle was a genuinely nice guy and while he didn't always agree with Roger and felt that Roger was being a bit too timid about things he wasn't a bully in his actions and efforts to get Roger to see that standing up for himself wasn't the wrong thing to do it was the necessary thing, not just for himself but for his daughter's sake as well.

Roger's insecurities to me were very largely connected to his concerns over losing his daughter, whom he so clearly loved and adored. Roger's love for his daughter and the author's ability to make me as a reader feel the strength of it was one of my favorite things about Roger.

I also really liked the ending for this story. I was very much left feeling like these two men were standing together on their yellow brick road and heading in the same direction towards a much deserved happily ever after.

The narrator for this audio book was Rusty Topsfield and while it's not my first audio book by this narrator I have to admit to being a little uncertain about how I feel. In terms of my basic 'things I look for in an audio book' he ticks the items on the list but somehow the voices he gives me don't quite match up to what's in my head. So just like when I listened to the audio book of Santino Hassell's 'Sutphin Boulevard' it wasn't a matter of bad or good...more a case of I just didn't connect with this narrators voices.

An audiobook of 'Dropped in Oz' was graciously provided by the publisher in exchange for an honest review.

Barb ~rede-2-read~ says

When Lyle's company offers him a transfer to Kansas, he accepts it as the positive career move he hopes it is. In Wamego, Kansas, he discovers that he's landed in the middle of Oz, if the yellow brick paths and the Oz Museum are any indication. He's also likely one of the only gay men in this town of 4,000 people.

Roger is co-owner of the restaurant next to the old-fashioned hotel Lyle is staying in, and the two meet on the first night Lyle is in town. Though hoping Roger is gay, Lyle is dejected to learn that it's not likely when he discovers that one of the servers is Roger's daughter. Despite this, the two become friendly and Lyle offers an ear when Roger needs someone to listen.

It's evident that everyone in town knows everything about everyone else when one of the patrons at the local bar informs Lyle that Roger is gay. He also learns that Roger has a drinking problem and that most of the residents willingly help to keep Roger away from alcohol, including the local bar owners. It's a tightknit community and Lyle begins to really like it there.

Eventually, Lyle and Roger get together. Roger's teenage daughter, Lizzy, accepts the couple easily, however Roger fears that his ex-wife will use his lifestyle change to get total custody of Lizzy. She does indeed show up and forcibly tries to take Lizzy away. Lyle calls 911 when he sees that she's actually hurting Lizzy, and the woman is charged with a misdemeanor. That's enough to get Roger temporary custody.

Lyle's new boss offers him an opportunity for a promotion which would mean he would stay in Kansas. Unsure what to do, he consults with his friends who've come to town for a visit. In the meantime, he's also confronted by Roger's former brother-in-law who is apparently as nasty as the ex-wife. When he later finds this man hurting Roger, he sees red and pummels the guy. That's also when he realizes he really loves Roger.

This story is sweet as many of Andrew Grey's stories are. The guys are real men with real life problems and overcome the everyday obstacles many people face. Andrew Grey fans will love this one. And if you're not a fan yet, but you like a simple, uplifting story, try this one. You won't be disappointed.

3.5 stars rounded up to 4 because the story brightened my day.

Note: This book was provided to me by the publisher through Hearts on Fire Reviews in exchange for an impartial review.

Serena Yates says

As far as I'm concerned, this is another winner from Andrew Grey. Lyle and Roger are such great guys, just trying to deal with their lives, both less than happy with who and where they are. I think it's fascinating how the story held my attention without any major angst, no hugely complicated plot twists, and no threat of world annihilation. Yes, I like to read all of those as well, but sometimes it's just nice to read about men I could just as well meet in the pub or bar around the corner as in one of Andrew Grey's books. I think part of their charm is that they're so easy to relate to, like close friends.

Lyle is in a rut. Everything is routine, one day pretty much like the next, and he is lonely to boot. Quick to give his heart because he wants a loving partnership so much, he has been disappointed more often than he cares to remember. And then the company he works for wants to "dump him in Oz (Kansas)" – well, that's what the offer of a special one-year project in the warehouse feels like to him. In the end he takes the offer – it's different from what he does now, it'll let him see a part of the world he'd not normally get to see, and his best friends Chuck and Don encourage him. Imagine his surprise when what he finds is very different from what he expects – in a good way!

Roger, a baker and restaurant co-owner of extraordinary talent, is in deep trouble. He has denied who he is all his life, which ultimately drove him to drink and almost lose his daughter to a vindictive ex-wife who cannot get over the fact he is gay. Small-minded is the kind way to describe her, and Roger's fear of her taking away his right to see his daughter has kept him quiet and depressed for years. He cannot imagine standing up to his ex, yet suddenly, with Lyle's help and support, he begins to see himself in a different life and finds the courage to be true to himself.

These two men are lost on their own, but when they get together they are exactly what each other need. Their story is sweet, moving, and just right when you're looking for a comfort read. It just goes to show how two normal men who each think they're nothing special can produce fireworks and achieve extraordinary results when they get together.

If you like sweet stories about great men who just want to be happy, if you enjoy finding out more about a sweet little town called Wamego, and if you're looking for a relaxing read about real men, then you will probably like this novel.

NOTE: This book was provided by Dreamspinner Press for the purpose of a review on Rainbow Book Reviews.

Susan65 says

Two men, who each carry their own burdens, find each other on the yellow brick road in Oz. Sounds like a witch should be involved...and guess what? There is!!! And she was so awful she put the wicked witch from the west to shame. Sadly this witch is the ex-wife of Roger and the mother of his teenage daughter. A more homophobic person you will never meet, well, except for maybe her brother Mark. Those two can cause some serious problems...and do.

Roger and Lyle meet the first day Lyle ends up in Oz for a yearlong job transfer. Like attracts like and they seem to have an instant attraction to the other. It takes a little while for Roger to get up enough nerve to admit the attraction on his end, but he has great reason...note the witch above. Said witch has threatened to take his daughter away, and Roger is too afraid to rock the boat in protest. He is willing to put his life on hold to keep the peace...even if that means hitting the bottle to escape from his pain.

Roger is living a nightmare but doesn't realize that the majority of the town is on his side, and already knows that he is gay. They just don't care, it doesn't matter, and eventually when he stops hiding who he is, he realizes that his small town really is the magical Emerald City. A small piece of heaven that he can live out his life in, openly and honestly, with Lyle and his daughter.

Lyle was floundering in his hometown of Harrisburg, PA, but still fought his transfer to a small town in

Kansas. Once he realized, with the help of his friends Chuck and Don that he needed to make a change then he accepted the inevitable and moved on. Turned out to be the best decision of his life...starting day one when he meets Roger. Amazing that he lived in a bustling city and was lonely, but only one day in tiny Oz and he is already glomming on the local restaurateur...and the attraction is returned.

Sometimes you need to make a change, and in this case, realize that home is not a small condo in Pennsylvania but where your heart is. For Lyle, his heart is in Oz and when he clicks his heals together that is exactly where he wakes up and couldn't imagine being anywhere else.

Andrea (Catsos Person) is a Compulsive eBook Hoarder says

Love in a Small Town

I liked the small town setting.

The two "mature" MCs, Lyle and Roger were very likable.

I like that though Roger had some serious issues, crazy ex-wife and custody issues concerning his daughter and as a recovering alcoholic, Lyle stood by him though the two of them hadn't known each other for very long.

Lizzy, Roger's teen-age daughter was awesomely supportive as were his ex-mil and fil.

A very nice little novella.

NTS: MMRG Ultimate Challenge February/March Bonus, state Kansas.

***I do not own this. I read it via a kindle loan.

T.M. Smith says

Review based on an ARC copy.

Lyle Powers has recently relocated to the small town in Kansas where everything revolves around Oz, yes, The Wizard of Oz, well sort of. He's sort of been just going through the motions in life since his last relationship. His company urges him to take a position within their Kansas office, and his best friends think that the change will be good for him. So he packs up his life and moves, the last thing he expects to find in Oz is a reason to stay.

Roger Kypers is a gay single father, fantastic baker and owner of his restaurant, and a raging alcoholic. From the moment he lays eyes on Lyle, he wants what he knows he can never have. His extremely homophobic and slightly psychotic ex wife has made it perfectly clear that his "deviant behavior" will not be tolerated, not if he wishes to keep seeing his daughter. With the support of his daughter, everyone in town and now Lyle, Roger starts to think he can actually live his own life and be happy. Enter bat shit crazy ex wife to ruin the day!

What a fast, fun read. Just the right amount of passion and drama mixed with clever dialogue and an

intriguing story dynamic. The last thing Lyle expects is to find romance in the small Kansas town that, at first, he feels he's been exiled to. He even tells his best friend that he's pretty sure he's met the only other gay man in town. And how everyone in Oz embraced Roger and rallied around him after his divorce and through the rough patches. As the story progresses, you learn that as much as Roger tried to hide his sexuality from his neighbors, they really aren't stupid. And they really couldn't care less!

I'm certain that Roger's daughter Lizzie completely stole the show. She was certainly his 'mini me' with a back bone of steel and amazing resilience. There were some seriously passionate moments between Lyle and Roger as they got to know one another, and their relationship progressed. But there wasn't a lot of sexy bedroom action in this book, and I didn't mind that at all. The moments these two share were precious and I was quite pleased that the focus of the story stayed on building the foundation of their relationship.

Another must read from Andrew Grey! Seriously, go to amazon and type in Andrew Grey, then one click anything you can find and you won't be disappointed. Promise!

I received a copy of this book in exchange for an honest review for MM Good Book Reviews
<http://mmgoodbookreviews.wordpress.com>
